

NEW HAMPSHIRE BOARD OF FIRE CONTROL
MEETING, October 5, 2016 at 9:30 AM
PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING
STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE
110 SMOKEY BEAR BLVD
CONCORD, NH

Attendees: J. William Degnan, Richard Heath, Allan Clark, Dan Andrus, Norman Skantze, Brian Boudreau, John Ela and Martin Michaelis

Absent: William Mead, Steven Freitas and Floyd Hayes

Meeting Called to Order at 9:30 am by Richard Heath.

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the June 15, 2016 meeting. It was seconded and all in favor.

Chairman Richard Heath opened the public hearing and provided guidelines for all regarding the public hearing part of this meeting. The written comment period will close on October 19th. Comments should be sent to the Board of Fire Control at 33 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03305 or delivered to the Office of the State Fire Marshal at 110 Smokey Bear Blvd, Concord NH. They may also be sent by email to FMO@dos.nh.gov or by fax 603-223-4294.

Fire Marshal Degnan asked the board if it was okay to go out of order so those representing the fireworks industry could have an opportunity to comment first on the amendment to NFPA 1 relative to the fireworks section that maintains the same amendments including the 2006 edition of the code. All approved.

Exhibit RE-16-04-15 d

Steve Carbone from the fireworks industry supported the language used in Exhibit RE-16-04-15 #d, Maintain currently adopted 2006 edition of Fireworks Code with the sprinkler and fire alarm amendments.

No other testimony moved to the next Exhibit.

Exhibit RE-16-02-15

Gary Cahoon from Friendship Manor in New Ipswich addressed the board regarding Exhibit RE-16-02-15, Comments/consideration of the proposed amendment to NFPA 101 2015 edition, Section 32.7.3.1, 32.7.3.3 and 33.7.3.3 for

fire drills. Unannounced fire drills cause chaos, confusion and possible injuries and he is requesting that night fire drills be eliminated or changed to protect the residents.

Eldon Munso, President of NH ARCH spoke in favor of this change and suggested that more education for the residents as well as the staff for a safer way to administer night drills.

Wendy Smigelski represented the Department of Health and Human Services and also agreed that some other form of drill could be used during the evening. She agreed that the life safety parts of these drills are needed. When the residents have been given their meds at bedtime this is where the confusion factor and disorientation for most of them comes into play. The role for HHS is to help these facilities to be compliant to the law and will make suggestions like staffing more people or include fire control specialists and other life safety measures. She expressed a concern that not all facilities have automatic fire sprinklers and residents that are able to act on their own in a prompt manner is critical to survival in a fire.

Ms Smigelski state the fire departments are not required to attend every drill. The facility has people who would monitor each event and record and discuss any changes that need to be made after the drills. She suggested that the night drills could occur during the day with the night staff present for this type of training. Maybe the language to NFPA 101 Section 32 could be changed to accommodate daytime training for the night staff.

Dan Andrus made a motion to adjourn to executive session for discussion. Motion was seconded by John Ela. All approved. Session started at 10:10 am.

Director Degnan offered to help work with the residential care industry to come up with the wording needed to present a change to this section of NFPA 101 that would be agreeable to all parties.

Norm Skantze recommended that Eldon Munson remove his request for the night drills amendment to submit another application stating an agreeable solution to all parties at the next board meeting.

John Ela made a motion for the residential care industry to work with the Fire Marshal's office to come up with the language for night drills that would be suitable to all parties. The motion was seconded by Allan Clark. All agreed.

A motion was made by Norman Skantze to return to the public portion of the meeting. It was seconded by Allan Clark. All approved. The public meeting resumed at 10:25 am.

Eldon Munson withdrew his request for the amendment. He will send in another application after working with the Fire Marshal. Both parties agreed to come up with a time to work on this amendment together.

No further discussion moved to the next Exhibit.

Exhibit RE-16-01-15

Exhibit RE-16-01-15, Comments/consideration of a proposed amendment to NFPA 1 2009 edition to Section 6008.03 (d) Fire Extinguishers.

The proponent of the amendment did not attend this hearing.

Kevin Thibodeau representing Hampshire Fire Protection expressed he was not in favor of this amendment. The requirement should remain in place. In the past employees would check and monitor extinguishers as scheduled on a monthly basis and many errors occurred with this system.

With the electronic monitoring system the extinguishers are programmed to check for blockage, when they are installed properly they have been very accurate. They send out a trouble alarm to the property managers to check on the unit in those situations. Once a fire extinguisher is taken off the wall to fight a fire it sends an alarm to the fire department and they respond usually sooner than a call into the station of a fire.

Allan Clark made a motion to adjourn to executive session for discussion. It was seconded by Dan Andrus. All approved. Session started at 10:37 am.

Why was this amendment approved if NH is only state requiring monitoring extinguishers? Marshal Degnan explained this process started well over a decade ago with a beta test in a NH school that was successful. Then the technology was installed in the State House, LOB and Upham Walker House where it performed satisfactory. The success of these tests moved to making them a requirement in 2010 by amending the State Fire Code. The process was through the rule making according to RSA 541-A including a public hearing and another hearing with JLCAR before they were accepted and adopted in 2011. The next year in 2012 there was a wholesale change by the legislature on how the fire code was adopted and the recent updated code was debated in the legislature and the fire extinguisher

amendment was referred to the House Commerce Committee where they unanimously voted to leave it in the code.

There were some concerns regarding nuisance alarms and having the manpower at fire stations to respond to the alarms. This law has been in effect in NH for 4 years and has worked out very well. Programming the extinguishers correctly will eliminate nuisance alarms.

Why was this made mandatory and not optional? NH has been first for many new ideas and after careful study it was determined to make this mandatory. One large hospital's corporation is now using the electronic extinguishers as well as support from people with disabilities. At the University of Utah they had an issue with tampering with extinguishers and after installing the monitored extinguishers there have been no incidents at all. There have been no complaints from the construction industry regarding cost.

Dan Andrus made a motion to return to the regular session. It was seconded by John Ela. All approved. Regular session resumed at 10:55.

Exhibit RE-16-04-15

Exhibit RE-16-04-15, NFPA 58 amendment relative to gas transfers and containers. No public comments

Exhibit RE-16-05-15

NFPA 54 relative to PVC gas venting. No public comments.

At 11:07 the public hearing was adjourned.

Old Business:

The state fire code legislative study committee from HB 427 will be meeting on October 6, 2016 which should be the last time they discuss this bill on going forward with the 2015 NFPA 1.

There is concern on the type of support material used for floor joists and the need for fire protection in new construction. The use of the lightweight floor joists is a collapse hazard for firefighters who respond to buildings with this material. There are options for protection of this floor design and sprinkler systems are one means of protecting them. A recommendation was made for an amendment to include sprinkler systems in basements for firefighter safety as well as others.

A motion was made by Allan Clark for the board to support the NFPA 1 2015 version to include the ban on lightweight construction without protection. It was seconded by John Ela. It was approved unanimously.

New Business:

The Fire Marshal confirmed that all board members were receiving the statistical data each month. Currently there are 14 fire departments that have not reported any fire incidents in 2015. It is his goal to get 100% reporting on all fire departments.

There will be several training opportunities available for anyone interested. One opportunity will be held on October 26th at Church Landing in Meredith regarding changes to NFPA 72. There is no charge for this training.

There will be a meeting in Lebanon on November 30th on Carbon Monoxide education to decrease the fatalities in New Hampshire and Vermont. There was an intern from Dartmouth College who was assigned to gather as much information on the statistics for fatalities in both states. Some of these incidents are not limited to residential homes. The Fire Marshal spoke about how the owner of Legal Seafood's has been very involved with this matter since one of his employees succumbed to CO poisoning from a faulty furnace in an adjacent occupancy.

There is a conference on Healthy Homes coming up at Grappone Center in Concord.

The pub education division has been very busy getting information out to the communities and families. Sheryl Nielsen has been instrumental in getting out a newsletter every month which is distributed to fire departments, schools and families.

Mary MacCaffrie is heading up the Calendar contest for 3rd graders in the state. These entries generally come from the art teacher in the school. Each month there is a theme and the children create a poster depicting that theme.

The department is waiting for approval by the Governor and Council on a grant which will provide a salary for a part time grant coordinator who will be instrumental in helping fire departments across the state get smoke detectors out to those who do not have access to them.

The Haz Matt Coordinator has been working with port and ship issues.

A working group has been established to work on a better explanation of what a Line of Duty Death is. They will meet at the Fire Marshal's office on October 21st.

The statewide fire mobilization plan is being updated and there are plans to take the training program on the road across the state. Lakes Region Mutual Aid is the lead organization in promoting this education opportunity. Funding has been secured to provide the training and convert it to an online application to better provide direction for fire departments.

Manchester is holding a parade on Sunday, October 9th to kick off Fire Prevention Week.

Director Degnan spoke about the corrugated steel tubing and the proposal he made to enhance the protection from lightning strikes on this product. The proposal changes the testing standard for this material.

Director Degnan reported on the fire incidents in the past 3 months, most recently the fire at Dartmouth College which was classified as one of the top ten in difficulty to contain according to the Hanover Fire Chief.

There was a fire death in Seabrook and fires in Bridgewater and Barnstead which are still under investigation.

The position for Fire Investigator is still available.

Wendy Smigelski sent an application for an amendment to a fire code and it will be added to the agenda for the next board meeting which will be held on Wednesday, November 16th at 10:30 am.

With the information that has been given to tent rental companies and the fire service from the Fire Marshal's office there seems to be better awareness for all parties involved. Some companies provided examples of how they tested soil for the correct strength to anchor a tent. There will be a meeting to discuss if any further legislation is needed for tent safety.

NFPA is holding classes on October 13th and 15th to go over the changes to the 2015 NFPA 101 Life Safety Code book. The class in Durham is full but there are openings at the Plymouth location if anyone is interested. There is no charge for the class.

The amendment proposals discussed in this meeting will be voted on at the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 16th.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dan Andrus. It was seconded by Norman Skantze. All Approved. Meeting adjourned at 12:08 pm.

DRAFT